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City Hall re-opens for regular business, meetings remote

**Masks are required for
all people entering
city buildings**

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The city has announced most public buildings will open back up for business, but due to the lack of ability to check for vaccination records, masks or face coverings in order to enter the building.

There will also be check-ins required at the entrance to the building for contact tracing purposes.

According to a press release from the city, Holyoke City Hall as well as the City Hall Annex at 536 Dwight Street, will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, close for 30 minutes, and open from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. City Hall re-opened on Tuesday, June 1.

The guidelines for mask covering were set by the Board of Health, and guards will be posted in the buildings to ensure compliance.

One surprising announcement made in the release is that the city council will not be holding meeting open to the public. Here are several of the rules

announced by the city:

Masks:

- Masks will be required for City employees and the public until further notice.

• Masks will be required for the public to enter the buildings. We'll have extra masks available at the guard stations.

• Current CDC guidance suggests masks are not necessary for vaccinated individuals. Still, as we cannot verify vaccination status, we're going to require masks for everyone for the time being.

Guards:

- At least two guards will be present during the standard work-day, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (One in the City Hall and one in the Annex)

• The public will sign in and out at the Guard stations for contact tracing.

• Guards will manage the flow of the public into each Department based on the capacity it can hold.

Meetings:

• We strongly encourage Municipal Boards to continue fully remote or hybrid (City staff in building, members of the public remote) meetings.

• Department Heads will be responsible for keeping

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Rescue plan funds arrive, city accepting proposals

By Shelby Macri
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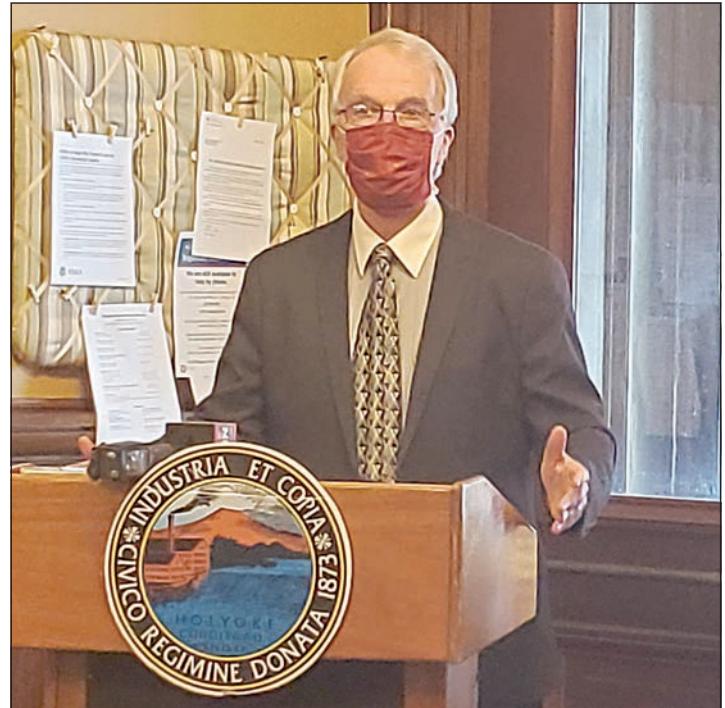
HOLYOKE – Acting Mayor Terrence Murphy announced the city's funding from the American Rescue Plan Act will be a total of \$29,894,310 over two rounds.

Murphy said the expected amount for this year is \$14,947,155 and the same amount will be sent to Holyoke next year on June 1. Murphy gave a tentative timeline for the funds and projects.

On Thursday, June 3 the ARPA Application will be available on the city website via GoogleForms and by June 21 proposals for projects are due by 6 p.m. with proposal summaries and books being released on June 28.

The objectives for this funding as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury include supporting urgent COVID-19 response efforts to keep decreasing the spread of the virus, replacing lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for public services and help retain jobs.

Additionally, the funds can be used to support immediate stabilizations for businesses, to address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic, as well as water, sewer, and



Acting Mayor Terrence Murphy called a conference on Tuesday, June 1 to announce the awarding of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Photo by Shelby Macri

broadband infrastructure.

Murphy and Director of Community Development Alicia M. Zoeller will be working together for this project along with the Treasurer's Office and the Auditor's Office.

If residents have questions on the ARPA and its funding, they can call the Office for Community Development or the Mayor's office

"We're excited that we're

going to get started in terms of the American rescue plan act and start to move that process along," Murphy said. "We have obviously some specific goals, one of the goals we have is that we want to try to have projects going by early fall; late August or early September."

The funding gives local governments some flexibility

See FUNDS, page 11

KNIGHTS SOFTBALL WINS



Jenialis Camacho slides safely into third base during Holyoke's win over South Hadley in softball action last Monday afternoon. More pages are on page 7.

Photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

Committee backs 'wage theft' ordinance

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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ships of the Carpenters Labor Management Program.

She explained to councilors and other city officials listen to the meeting that wage theft has become a major problem in the region, and it is often thanks to something voters often love to see.

Terence Murphy, who currently serves as the acting mayor as well as the Ward 2 city councilor, filed the ordinance.

Murphy filed the ordinance in order to make sure all construction and contract workers are paid fair wages for work performed.

At the May 26 Ordinance Committee meeting, which was held via Zoom, the committee heard some testimony from Lisa Clauson. Clauson is the director of strategic partner-

See WAGE, page 11

Candidate files signatures for mayoral run

HOLYOKE – Rebecca Lisi filed nomination papers today signed by nearly 400 registered voters endorsing her candidacy for mayor.

Lisi, 42, in her 14th year as a city councilor at large, is running a bilingual campaign to be the city's chief executive.

Lisi speaks Spanish. Her events are in English and Spanish. And Latinos are among her top advisers in this city of 40,000 whose population is roughly half Latino and half white.

The four pillars of Lisi's campaign for mayor are education, economic development, being welcoming to newcomers and civic engagement.

The latter, she said at an event on Saturday, May 22, 2021, means developing a "rich social network" that bridges the divisions present in the city and gets neighbors working side-by-side with each other on common, shared goals.

It's a positive message because the future will be a product of work the Holyoke community is already doing and it gives meaning to the little efforts that each member of the community can contribute today, Lisi told supporters at Jay's Bed & Breakfast, 1109 Dwight St.

"We have everything we need to

grow," Lisi said.

On education, Lisi supports construction of a new middle school. She wants the city eventually to regain control over the Holyoke public schools, which have been under state control, known as receivership, since July 6, 2015.

Lisi was among the earliest supporters of the marijuana industry. She saw that Holyoke would benefit from the jobs, tax revenue, redevelopment of unused mill buildings and new businesses by welcoming the marijuana industry. And that's exactly what has happened.

Shortly after moving to Holyoke from her native Long Island, New York in 2002, Lisi realized that Holyoke had an attractive edginess.

"And it was a perfect fit for me," Lisi said.

She began knocking on doors to meet the community and hear their stories about the city in her early campaigns for public office. That work taught her a key lesson: She was good at listening to people and they trusted her.

Trusted her enough to elect her to seven, two-year terms on the Holyoke City Council.

"Knocking on doors and talking to

neighbors really created a strong basis of support for me," Lisi said.

Lisi's experience and leadership are unmatched in the race for mayor. She has been chairwoman of the Ordinance Committee for most of her City Council tenure.

Leading the Ordinance Committee, the City Council's busiest committee, means Lisi has connected with numerous large and small business owners, along with homeowners, for years. This came as they sought special permits or zone changes while the Lisi-led committee sought to help these commercial and residential taxpayers use their properties in the best interest of themselves, their neighbors and the city in general.

Lisi submitted nomination papers to the City Clerk's office at City Hall.

She exceeded the minimum number of registered voters' signatures, 250, needed to qualify as a candidate for mayor.

Pending the City Clerk's certification of the signatures, the filing places Lisi's name on the ballot for the preliminary election Sept. 21.

The top two finishers in the preliminary election for mayor will compete for the seat in the general election Nov. 2.



Councilor Rebecca Lisi shows her nomination papers at city hall as she prepares to file them with the city. Lisi is running for mayor this fall.

Submitted photo

Summer and extended year programming begins July 6

HOLYOKE – The Summer Learning Academies, ¡Somos Exploradores! are high-quality, fun, engaging, and FREE learning opportunities for HPS Students in rising grades 1-8. All academies are offered in-person with some remote options. Programs start July 6 and Aug. 9. Register your student and visit our summer learning webpage for more

information.

All students eligible for Extended School Year (ESY) services, per their IEPs, can register at the above link. Please register by June 1st to avoid transportation delays. Contact your child's Special Education Team Leader (ETL) with questions. If you are unsure who to contact, please reach out to Jill Hughes to help connect you.

School enrollment now open

HOLYOKE – Do you have a child who will be 5 on or before Sept. 1? It's time to enroll in kindergarten.

Enrollment forms are now online. Visit www.enrollholyoke.com to start the enrollment process for your child. If you need any assistance, call (413) 534-2000, option 1.

Preschool Program. We also have full-day and half-day openings in our Preschool Program. Contact the

Enrollment Center at (413) 534-2000, option 1 to help you get started with your child's placement and enrollment forms. Learn more.

Dual Language Program. We still have spaces available for Spanish-speaking and bilingual students entering preschool through seventh grade. You can learn more about the program in this video. Contact the Enrollment Center for more information.

STUDENT WINS CAR



Gary Rome Hyundai recently held a contest to give away a car to a deserving senior. That car went to graduating senior Amelia Santana.

Submitted photo

Velis sponsors amendment to fund substance abuse issues

BOSTON – On Wednesday, May 26, the Massachusetts State Senate unanimously adopted two amendments sponsored by Senator John C. Velis during its Fiscal Year 2022 Budget debate. Amendment No. 478 provides \$800,000 to RecoveryWorks, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital that provides employment opportunities and supports to individuals throughout the Commonwealth who struggle with substance use disorders. Amendment #409 allocates \$100,000 for the creation of a state-wide pilot program to increase access to Narcan and naloxone kits for school districts.

"Re-entering the workforce is such an important step for individuals in recovery. It is a chance for them to grow and regain self-confidence, develop tangible skills, and make connections that will lead them further down their career paths. Most importantly though, employment provides individuals in recovery with a stability that is difficult to find elsewhere," stated Senator Velis, who is Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "Unfortunately, there still exists a deep stigma around substance use disorders, especially when it comes to employing someone who is in recovery. That is why the work of RecoveryWorks is so important and why the funding in this

amendment is so critical."

RecoveryWorks provides participants with career advice and job search coaching; continued clinical support during the job search and initial employment; ongoing on-the-job mentorship; and assistance with legal and healthcare issues. While in the program participants must also agree to pursue addiction treatment as well. They also serve as liaisons to employers for up to five years in order to facilitate and ensure the participants are securing an effective long-term job.

On Wednesday, The Senate also voted unanimously to adopt amendment #409, which provides \$100,000 for a state-wide pilot program to increase access to Narcan and naloxone kits for school districts.

"Western Massachusetts, and our Commonwealth as a whole, has seen far too many lives lost due to opioid overdoses, and we continue to fight this epidemic every single day. Increasingly concerning is the growing rate of opioid use in high school students," said Senator Velis. "The reality is our Commonwealth will continue to see this issue grow in this age group and opioid overdose-related deaths can be prevented when naloxone is administered in a timely manner. We can and must increase access to these life-saving medications in our communities, because in those terrifying minutes, every second is so critical."

Cavanaugh awarded degree from UA

TUSCALOOSA, AL – Olivia Cavanaugh of Holyoke, has received the following degree from The University of Alabama: Bachelor of Science in

Commerce & Business Administration. UA awarded some 5,860 degrees during its spring commencement ceremonies April 30-May 2.

DCF seeks volunteers from Western Mass

REGION – Volunteers are needed from Western Massachusetts to help review cases involving children who are placed in the custody of the state.

The Foster Care Review Unit makes decisions regarding children who are placed in foster care for six months or longer, assessing how well their needs are being met and what progress has been made toward establishing them in a permanent living situation. A Volunteer

from the Community is one member of the three-person panels that make these decisions. Foster Care Reviews typically last 30 to 90 minutes and are being conducted remotely during the pandemic. Volunteers need to be 18 years or older and must participate in pre-service training that is currently being conducted remotely. For an application and further information, please contact Lashanda Stone at Lashanda.Stone@Mass.Gov.

Library to re-open with restrictions in place

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library is pleased to announce that its doors will reopen to the public June 14. Library users will have a choice to enter the library to select/pick up library items or continue using curbside services and online resources.

Safety is not negotiable...The Holyoke Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and comfortable environment for all patrons and staff – including patrons under 15 years of age and those that are not vaccinated or with health risks. For the safety of staff and the public, face masks covering the mouth and nose will be required for those 5 years and older for entry. For those who are not ready to visit inside and those who cannot or choose not to wear a face mask over the mouth and nose, we encourage you to continue using our online resources and our Curbside services.

We will begin providing limited in-person services to “Grab & Go” -- browsing and checkout, photocopying and faxing -- while still implementing

safety measures for staff and the public.

Not all services will be available at this time, but will be phased in as local conditions and guidelines permit.

- In-person Library programs will be limited, as well as the size of groups attending.

- The Holyoke History Room will not be open for in-person visits.

- Public seating and restrooms will not be available.

- Public computers will not be available and computer tutoring will not be scheduled.

- Non-library meetings will not be booked or held at this time.

The Holyoke Public Library will be open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for

- In-Person browsing & checkout
- Photocopying and faxing
- Curbside services

Per Board of Health recommendations, visitors will register at the entrance for contact tracing purposes. Please have your library card with you if you are planning on entering the library to register and to use self-check-out service.

Children under 15 must be with a supervising adult while in the building and on library grounds. Due to concern for public and staff safety, there will be limited occupancy in certain areas in the library, please make visits as brief as possible - no more than 30 minutes.

Visitors are encouraged to return library items using the book drops. We encourage the public to have their library card at hand when entering the library.

To enter the library, visitors will:

- Need to have face masks on
- Return library items at outside or inside book drop.

- Enter through the automated door (on the left of the building) and exit the building using the not automated door on the other side.

- Scan library card for contact tracing purposes; if no library cards, visitors will need to sign in.

While in the library

- Visitors are encouraged to keep physical distance when possible.

- Children’s Room will limit visits to 15 people at once. Visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).

- Teen’s room will limit visits to 4 people at once. Visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).

- Reference Room visitors will need to register upon entering the room (for contact tracing purposes).

- Computer and History Rooms will be closed until further notice.

Check-out procedure

- Staff will be available to assist with self-check-out
- If checking out books, visitors will be encouraged to use self-check-out.

- If checking out Audio-Visual, visitors will go to front desk.
- If visitors do not have their library cards, they will need to go to the front desk and provide identification

We miss seeing all our patrons and hope to see you this summer.

Local students receiving scholarship from Latino Fund

SPRINGFIELD – An all-star lineup of featured guests join in the celebration of Latinx high school seniors and others in the greater Western Massachusetts Latinx community at the 30th annual Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Massachusetts’ Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 22 at 7 PM. 13 college-bound students, along with two community leaders, will be honored at the virtual event, which is free and open to the public.

The event will be moderated by Verónica García, host of the new Univisión program “Viviendo Sin Límites,” and former producer and host of the WGBY Latino television show “Presencia.” The event also features a keynote from Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto, former Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and current Distinguished Fellow at Mount Holyoke College, followed by a Question-and-Answer session moderated by García. The celebration will also include contributions and performances by internationally-recognized artists Yolandita Monge, Olga Tañón, poet Martin Espada, and local young cuatro player, Christian Santiago, as well as special messages

from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey and Massachusetts State Senator Adam Gómez. To attend this free online event, register at Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Mass or at Eventbrite.

“We couldn’t be more excited to be celebrating the amazing accomplishments of graduating seniors from Western Massachusetts again this year,” said Myriam Quiñones, Board President of the Latino Scholarship Fund. “We’re thrilled to be featuring messages of encouragement from leaders in the community, not to mention Mayor Yulín Cruz Soto as keynote, U.S. Senators from Massachusetts, plus well-known performers. The celebration honors those who have inspired the Latinx community, and those who will become our future leaders.”

Since 1991, the Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Massachusetts has provided scholarships to graduating Latinx high school students from Hampden and Hampshire Counties who demonstrate high academic achievement and a dedication to their family and community.

Quiñones states, “In many ways this year’s celebration will be our best one yet.

As much as we wanted to hold the event in person, a virtual event allows us to reach awardees’ family members and supporters from well beyond New England,” Quiñones said. “In doing so, we’ll also be sharing the accomplishments of Western Massachusetts’ incoming Latinx college students with the world. This year is especially memorable as we are celebrating 30 years of providing the next generation of Latinx leaders with the honor – and financial support – they deserve.”

“We are so grateful for the constant and unwavering support of our friends and community members. We depend on the generosity of not only our corporate and foundation sponsors, but also our many individual donors to make possible our scholarship awards,” Quiñones added. “Our annual Latino Scholarship Fund Banquet Celebration has been our main form of fundraising, therefore, we hope that when registering for our virtual celebration, community members will make a donation if they can. This is truly a community effort and we want everyone to participate by giving as much or as little as they can afford. While we have had some very generous donations (as much

as \$1500 or more), if folks cannot afford to donate at this time, we encourage them to join us. Your presence will mean a lot to our award recipients!”

The Latino Scholarship Fund is dedicated to encouraging Latino academic achievement by awarding scholarships for students to pursue higher education. The LSF has been awarding college scholarships to Latino students in Holyoke and surrounding communities in Western Massachusetts for over 30 years. Learn more about the Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Massachusetts and make a donation by visiting the website at <https://www.latinoscholarshipwesternmass.org/>

Scholarship recipients include: Jean Castro Colón, from Holyoke High School to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Marco Díaz Moore, from Holyoke High School-North Campus to Holyoke Community College

Briana Gómez, from Holyoke High School-North Campus to Elms College

Michael Ortiz Caraballo, from Holyoke High School to Kean University, NJ

Nilmarie Velázquez, from Holyoke High School to Elms College

Homework House announces summer program for children

HOLYOKE – It’s once again time for summer fun and learning at Homework House’s Summer Readers and Leaders Program. This year’s program will begin on Tuesday, July 6, and will end on Friday, Aug. 6. The program will run each week Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to all children who will be entering 2nd-5th grades and is free to all who attend. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Summer Readers and Leaders will take place at Homework House, 340 Chestnut Street in Holyoke. Over the five weeks, the program will focus on helping young readers develop and improve their basic literacy skills in small groups with credentialed reading teachers. Children will be guided in group and individualized literacy activities every morning. Afternoons will be filled with fun summer activities, indoors and outdoors such as arts & crafts, cooperation games, board games, and computer time. Weekly trips to the library and field trips will round out the summer.

Homework House will also offer a new middle school program for those

going into Grade 6th – 8th. Children will be welcomed to an engaging literacy routine in the morning, and then academic and career readiness activities in the afternoon which will include exploratory college and career preparation as well as virtual meetings with college students. This program will be offered at Homework House’s site at 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke.

Both programs include breakfast, lunch, and a snack - critically important at a time when many of the children would otherwise go hungry.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 to 12, from the Holyoke Public Schools. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. Today, it offers services from three different locations in Holyoke. Tutors, many of whom are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children’s educational learning and retention.

To register for the program or for more info, please call 413-887-2012 or email HHstaff@HomeworkHouseHolyoke.org.

Farmers Market kicks off

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Farmers’ Market kicked off May 19 on Race Street, between Appleton St. and Dwight St. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will run every Saturday and conclude on the Oct. 16. Entrance to the market can be found at the intersection of Appleton St and Race St. The market will continue to closely follow all COVID-19 regulations and restrictions prescribed by the Holyoke Board of Health and State.

Customers can expect to see a large variety of foods from potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, fruits, to an array of cheeses and meats from existing vendors such as D&R Farm and Atlas Farm, and additionally from our 14 new vendors! This season the Holyoke Farmers’ Market is also welcoming various non-food vendors such as Terra Pots who sells plants, Bath Thyme Soap Shop, Blu Angel Flame who sells Candles, and NA Brews, who produce non-alcoholic beverages. Food Trucks will be lined up at the market as well, as the market welcomes Mr. ICE, Mr. Whippy, and Crave Food Truck.

The Market is equipped to accept SNAP/EBT as well as HIP, a statewide program which offers SNAP partici-

pants an automatic rebate when they purchase fruits and vegetables from participating Massachusetts farms. If a customer has an EBT card, they automatically have \$40 in free farmers’ market money towards fruits and vegetables! “Not many people know about HIP, and how when they come to the market they have free money to spend which benefits both the local farms and the customer,” explains Charlie Henzel, Market Manager.

The Holyoke Farmers Market is a collaborative market between the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and the Holyoke Food and Equity Collective. Through this collaboration, the market has seen remarkable growth and interest among the Holyoke community, with the ultimate goal of increasing food access in Holyoke.



Poetry Corner

Education Echo

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*Don't make the lesson and the learning
More important than the experience and
the student.*

*Don't make the student more important
Than the human being —*

*Don't let facts, observations and tangibles
March before imagination, inventiveness
and ingenuity.*

*Listen to the student more.
Feel secure with love, knowledge and
goodness discipline.*

*Perceive the beauty and it will appear.
Look for the heart and spirit in yourself
and others first.*

*God's gift, whatever that may be —
Creativity for a talent or gift will come to you.*

AMERICA OPENS UP



Guest Column

Early June spotlights specimen perennials

The crazy heat we had for nearly two weeks straight pushed a lot of June perennials ahead. Then, the cold rain came and has them in a holding pattern. As I write, my peonies are budded up and I am crossing my fingers that they will bloom for my early June birthday. Read on to learn about peonies and two other plants known as specimen perennials.

The word "specimen" has its own definition in horticultural terms. Specimen plants are special, prized for their ability to stand alone in a border or foundation planting. They don't need to be planted in a group of similar or differing plants to look their best. Simply put, one is enough! These types of plants are also known to be extremely hardy and long-lived. Nineteenth century gardeners must have certainly been aware of these attributes. The patterned beds in the Salem Towne garden at Old Sturbridge Village highlight three specimen perennials that bloom in June: Gas plant, baptisia and peony.

Gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*) is probably the least known of the three. Stems are deep green and stiff, and even at close to three feet do not require staking. White flowers are borne on terminal spikes and are unique in that two of their five petals bend down to show-off stamens that curve skyward. The common name for this plant comes from the volatile oil that is given off by the flowers and in its seed pods, and can theoretically be ignited on a calm evening. In fact, William



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

Prince's catalog of 1831 notes that "this plant exhales inflammable gas!" I have also learned first hand that the seed pod causes "photo-dermatitis." Exercise caution when working close to this plant or you too may end up with a star shaped burn on your skin!

Gas plant is tough to propagate. It is rarely successful when divided, and seeds need to be stratified before being sown. Then they may take a good year or more to germinate and another couple of years for the plants to get to size.

Baptisia (*B. australis*), commonly known as false indigo, is another specimen that shines in June. The plant is reminiscent of lupine and suggests a family relation to other legumes. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes that emerge in mid-month. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, one plant is certainly enough per grouping. The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually tiny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or partial shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

My favorite specimen of all is saved for discussion last: the peony. Perhaps I am biased because I grew up with a division of my Babci's (Grandmother's) plant in



my childhood garden. Frilly and bubblegum pink, this flower was always cut and put in a vase just in time for my birthday! The variety we had was likely 'Monsieur Jules Elie' introduced in 1888, and available in nearby New York in 1917. 'Festiva Maxima' is the white splashed red flowered variety grown at the Towne garden as well as in my home landscape these days, alongside a division of Babci's plant.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day for your peony. If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

See GARDEN, page 5

HOLYOKE the Sun

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"The fireworks
begin today.
Each diploma is
a lighted match.
Each one of you
is a fuse."

Ed Koch

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Should My Wife Wait Until Age 70 to Claim?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I'm 74 and receiving my Social Security benefits. My wife is 68, and we are delaying her benefits until she's 70. But I read an article about a wife receiving half of her husband's benefit, which makes me wonder if my wife waiting is smart. Please let me know your thoughts. Signed: Wondering

Dear Wondering: Your wife waiting until she is 70 to claim her own Social Security retirement benefit may be a smart move, but only if her age 70 benefit will be more than the benefit she is already entitled to as your spouse. Her benefit as your spouse is 50% of the benefit you were entitled to at your full retirement age (66). She would get that 50% because she has already reached her own full retirement age (FRA), but your wife's spousal benefit doesn't grow beyond what she's entitled to at her FRA. Her own Social Security retirement benefit, however, grows by .667% per month until she is 70, at which point it reaches maximum (32% more than her FRA benefit amount). So, the question is, which will be higher: her spouse benefit, or her age 70 benefit? If the answer is her spousal ben-

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

fit, then she should claim that now. But if the answer is her age 70 benefit, waiting until she is 70 makes more sense.

There is, however, another option which would work even better if your wife's own benefit at age 70 will be her highest. Since you are already collecting, and because your wife was born in 1953, she is eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." Doing so would allow her to collect her 50% spousal benefit from you now, while still allowing her own Social Security retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. That would give your wife half of your FRA benefit amount each month, while she simultaneously maximizes her own Social Security retirement benefit. Then at age 70, when her personal benefit reaches maximum, she can switch to her own higher benefit. I suggest that your wife get a Statement of Estimated Benefits from Social Security to determine if her age 70 benefit will be higher than her spousal benefit. If so, she can file the "restricted application for spousal benefits only" and then simply wait until she is 70 to switch from her spousal benefit to her own higher benefit (32% more than her FRA amount).

Note that this "restricted application for spousal benefits only" option is no longer available to anyone born after January 1, 1954, but is still available to your wife because she was born before that. Unless her spousal benefit will be her highest, I suggest that your wife file the "restricted application for spousal benefits only" which will give her 50% of your FRA benefit amount (including COLA awarded since then). She should also ask for 6 months retroactive spousal benefits since she was eligible to do this at her FRA.

The easiest way for your wife to get her Statement of Estimated Benefits is by using her personal "My Social Security" online account. If she doesn't yet have an online account with Social Security, it is easy to create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. She will need that account anyway to apply for her benefits online, which is by far the most efficient way to apply.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by

See SECURITY, page 5

Wistariahurst to host summer landscape tours

HOLYKE – This summer, join Wistariahurst staff and volunteers for a guided tour of the historic gardens and grounds. On Thursday, June 10 at 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m., Wistariahurst Curator and Holyoke City Historian, Penni Martorell, will lead walking tours joined by Wistariahurst

garden volunteers.

Attendees will learn about how the landscape and gardens have evolved over the years, what has been planted here historically, and the history of this plot of land. Your guides will share stories about how the Skinner family came to be here and what the property looked like

when they lived here.

Tickets are \$10 and \$7 for Wistariahurst Museum Members, students, and seniors. Tickets are available at www.Wistariahurst.org. Advance registration is required and tickets are limited.

Please note that this tour takes place

entirely outside and is approximately 45 minutes long. Our tour guides will use basic sound amplification. We ask that participants maintain 6 feet social distance and/or wear a mask. Hand sanitizer will be available. All guests will be asked to sign in for contact tracing purposes.

Big E bakery open on weekends

Eastern States Exposition announces the opening of The Big E Bakery in its New England Center, Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning last weekend, May 22 and 23.

Fans of The Big E Cream Puff and Éclair will be able to stop by and pick up their favorite treats at the Bakery drive-up window. Prices are as follows: Cream Puffs and Éclairs, \$5; 3-packs, \$14; 6-packs, \$25 (any combination). To add ganache topping on Cream Puffs, add \$1 each. The option to pre-order online is coming soon.

Picking up the pastries is easy – Enter the grounds at the Exposition's Gate 2, take an immediate left down the Fair's Hampden Avenue, and a right at the Fire Station to the Bakery window.

The safety of our patrons is of the utmost importance and all local and state

guidelines in place at the time of pick-up will be followed. Guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles at all times and wear face masks or coverings when ordering and accepting food.

Once food purchases are complete, guests will be directed to exit the grounds.

Connect with us on social media and visit www.TheBigE.com to join our mailing list.



COVID-19 testing extended to September

HOLYKE – Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through September, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

However, effective June 1, testing will move to Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation on the opposite side of campus.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last August to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H (or to parking lot M after June 1). There are signs and parking attendants on site to help guide traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.

GARDEN, from page 4

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless staking makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don’t tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit

was botrytis. Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don’t compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant’s base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well.

Plant specimen perennials in your landscape for years of enjoyment.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

SECURITY, from page 4

the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or

Dress for Success holding tag sale

SPRINGFIELD – Dress for Success Western Massachusetts will host another of its popular clothing tag sales—this time outside under a huge tent in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall. Hundreds of women have refreshed their wardrobes at past tag sales, while at the same time supporting Dress for Success’ mission to empower women to achieve economic independence.

Women can choose from an extensive array of clothing, shoes, accessories and more. These new and gently used items include selections from name-brand fashion houses such as Anne Klein, Evan Picone, Ellen Tracy and many more. Customers can fill a shopping bag for only \$25.

If you have clothing that you’d like to donate, please call 413-732-8179 to make an appointment.

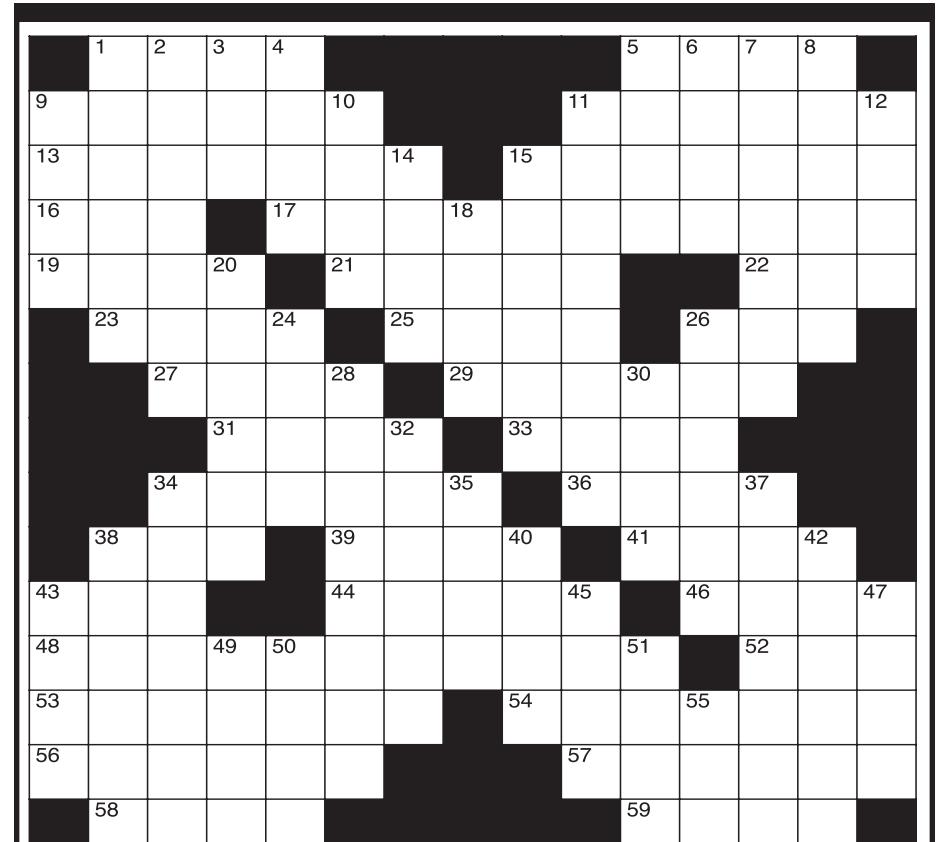
Because the tag sale is out-

side, there will not be rooms to try on clothes. If anyone buys something that doesn’t fit, they can pass it on to friends or others in need. For everyone’s safety, we respectfully suggest wearing a mask while inside the tent.

The tag sale will be held Friday, June 18, through Thursday, June 24, in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall at 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, where Dress for Success maintains a boutique. Be sure to tell your friends and mark your calendar.

Volunteers are needed on June 14-17 to set up, June 18-24 to staff the tent, and June 25 to break down the event. If you are interested, please contact dressforsuccessspringfield@gmail.com.

For more information about Dress for Success Western Mass., please contact Executive Director Margaret Tantillo at (860) 638-8980.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to “flows”
- 5. French industrial city
- 9. Diagrams
- 11. Diplomat
- 13. Hires
- 15. Hawaiian island
- 16. Set afame
- 17. Very happy
- 19. Blue dye
- 21. Small terrier with short legs
- 22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 23. Northern pike genus
- 25. Expression of annoyance
- 26. Female deer
- 27. Casella and Keller-
- 29. Actor's lines to audience
- 31. Days (Spanish)
- 33. Close a person's eyes
- 34. Cloaked
- 36. Comedic actor Rogen
- 38. It's all around us
- 39. Neutralizes alkalis
- 41. Native people of New Mexico
- 43. No seats available
- 44. Famed “Air Music” composer
- 46. Fit of irritation
- 48. Psychic phenomena
- 52. Knicks' first-rounder Toppin
- 53. Seed used in cooking
- 54. “WandaVision” actress Hahn
- 56. Samples food
- 57. In a lucid way
- 58. Stair part
- 59. Adieu
- 60. Construction site machine
- 61. Tracts at the mouths of rivers
- 62. A Christian sacrament
- 63. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)
- 64. Turn away
- 65. Impersonal
- 66. Shortly
- 67. Indigenous Alaskans
- 68. Subtle difference of meaning
- 69. Sicilian city
- 70. Put in harmony
- 71. Administrative divisions
- 72. As happily
- 73. Horse mackerel
- 74. Muddy or boggy ground
- 75. Monetary unit of Italy
- 76. 24. 22
- 77. Tracts at the mouths of rivers
- 78. Earnings
- 79. Insect repellent
- 80. Runner-up
- 81. Musician
- 82. Serious or urgent
- 83. Esteemed one
- 84. Where rockers play
- 85. Work furniture
- 86. Greek prophet-esses
- 87. Quantitative fact
- 88. Missing soldiers
- 89. This (Spanish)
- 90. Minute
- 91. This (Spanish)
- 92. Maintain possession of
- 93. Assault with a knife
- 94. Holiday text message greeting

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News

CULTURAL COUNCIL PUTS ON FREE CONCERT



Dixieland Stomp to present a concert of Dixieland Music on the town green – 235 State St, Granby June 14 starting at 7 p.m. Rain date is June 28. This high-energy, foot-stomping performance combines humorous music and just plain fun for a great time for everyone from eight to 80. The concert is free and open to the public. This concert is sponsored in part by the Cultural Council of Massachusetts and the Granby Cultural Council. For more information, contact David Neill at tbn8@aol.com or call 413-686-5027.

Submitted photo

Drive-in on the Big E Fairgrounds to show new releases and classic films

WEST SPRINGFIELD – West Springfield Drive-In, in partnership with Eastern States Exposition, will be opened April 23 on The Big E Fairgrounds. The drive-in will feature two 45' by 60' screens and be able to accommodate 300 cars each, in a safe and socially distant family experience. The drive-in, located in the Gate 9 parking area, is authorized to show new release content, once available, as well as special livestream con-

certs and other events.

The drive-in is open on weekends through the springtime and then seven days per week during the summer season through Labor Day and movies will begin at a time consistent with sunset. Closing for The Big E, scheduled Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, the drive-in will then reopen October through December for holiday themed experiences. Movies will be announced weekly and ticket sales will

be available at the time of the announcement. In addition, a full concession stand will also be available for guests to not only enjoy popcorn, but popular Fair foods such as fried dough, fried Oreos, and cotton candy.

"We are pleased to bring this safe and socially distant family experience to the residents of West Springfield and the surrounding communities," said EJ Dean, President, FestEvents. "During the glob-

al pandemic, we successfully operated several drive-in theaters across the state of Massachusetts and we are grateful our partner, the Eastern States Exposition, is maximizing the use of the fairground space for the benefit of those in the community."

Please visit www.wsdrivein.com for details or connect on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westspringfield-drivein>.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Services resuming at UCC

HOLYOKE – After 15 months, it's finally time to come back. The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is pleased to announce that in-person worship services are returning every Sunday at 10 a.m. beginning June 6.

UCC Holyoke last held worship service in-person in March of 2020. After the Covid-19 pandemic suspended in-person services and programs, the church began livestreaming worship services via Facebook and YouTube.

For updates and details regarding worship services, please visit UCC's

website at www.uccholyoke.org or the UCC Holyoke Facebook page.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you'd like to learn more about UCC Holyoke, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Summer concerts are back

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Elderly are bringing back its free Summer Concert Series.

To start the three Concert Series the Old Country Road Band with Director Ron Jackson on June 15. On July 20, the Dan Kane Singers will impress with their talented voices and Aug. 17 the great Johnny and the Flashbacks will finish the concert series.

All concerts will be held at the Dufresne Park, Kendall St. in Granby, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Please bring your chairs, refresh-

ments and bug spray. Remember to observe all COVID-19 restrictions that are applicable.

The Friends of Granby Elderly, Inc. is a non-profit organization and its main purpose is to provide support and entertainment for the Granby Council of Aging adult population and surrounding areas.

The Concert Series is supported by the Mass Cultural and Arts Council and the Granby Cultural and Arts Council.

For more information, call 413-467-3352.



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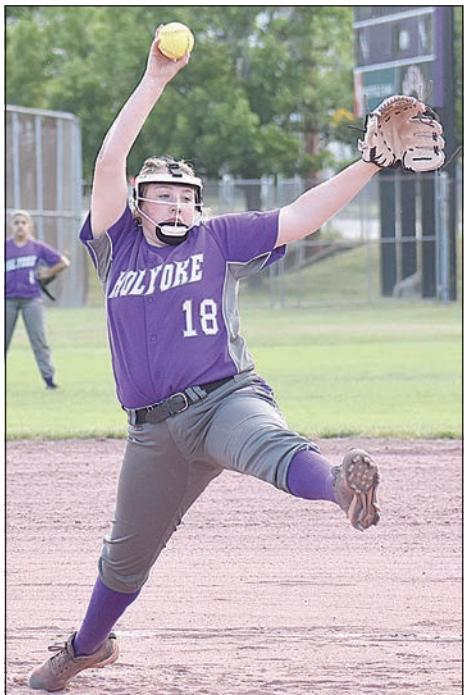
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Knights take down Tigers

HOLYOKE – Last Monday afternoon, Holyoke used a six-run third inning to break away in an 11-2 win over South Hadley. Anjelica Rivera had two hits and two RBI. Samantha Brennan pitched a complete game, allowing six hits and just two earned runs.



Pitcher Samantha Brennan fires to the plate.



Desirae Darkwah slides into second.



Jayshalee Santos comes up throwing after making a catch.



Jaycalee Santos leads off second base.



Keliah Thomas makes it safely to second base.

Photos by Kara Walsh-Vey



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, looks to deke around an opponent.



Lauren Berman, of South Hadley, possesses the ball.



Lily Fabian, of Monson, goes for the header.

Charlotte Maurer passes the ball.
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

New England Mutiny picks up first win

LUDLOW – On May 22, the Mutiny won its first game of the season with the help of a lot of offense. The Mutiny defeated Connecticut Rush 6-1. Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, and Lily Fabian, of Monson, had goals. Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, provided an assist in the win.

The Holyoke Sun online:
www.sun.turley.com



The Braves' Dave Warner makes a throw to first.



Cardinals pitcher Gary Paradise delivers a pitch.



Braves pitcher Cam McCorison snaps off a curveball.



Anthony Maspo fields a grounder.
Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Quabbin league action

SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League has gotten underway with the season beginning in early May. The league was shut down for the 2020 season due to the pandemic.

Last Sunday, one of the games saw the Cardinals defeating the Braves 18-3. The league features six teams playing Sunday morning games each week.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Bay State Summer Games returning this year

WOBBURN – The Bay State Games are pleased to announce that after the cancellation of all 2020 Summer Games events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans are well underway to hold over two dozen sports at the 39th annual Games this Summer.

"The last live Bay State Games event was held on March 1, 2020," said Bay State Games Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "For the past several months we have been monitoring state protocols and working with our venue partners with hope that we could host events this summer. The recent updates by the EEA regarding youth and adult amateur sport activities will allow us to proceed with many of our events. We are excited to be able to provide oppor-

tunities for athletes who have waited, in some cases for over a year, to participate in the sports they love."

While many events will proceed, the athlete experience and format may be different in 2021 as policies will be implemented to ensure the safety of all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. "We are working with event organizers, sport governing bodies, individual venues, local boards of health, and the Bay State Games medical team to develop safety protocols for each event," said Cummings. Protocols for each sport will be available on the Bay State Games website.

The first live event to return will be Figure Skating on June 12 at the Nashoba Valley Olympia Rink

in Boxborough. Normally held in the Winter Games in the Berkshires, this event was postponed due to COVID-19. Over 340 skaters will participate under strict mask and social distancing guidelines. Showcase sport tryouts in baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball will take place at statewide venues throughout the month of June with competitions held in July. After the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Games, Bay State Games has also adjusted the eligibility requirements to allow graduating seniors to compete in the showcase sports. In order to be eligible, the senior must have either already competed in Bay State Games in the past or have been registered for the 2020 Summer Games

prior to its cancellation. All showcase sports, except baseball, may qualify for the team using this eligibility requirement.

Many individual sports are also confirmed with events in archery, pickleball, shooting sports, weightlifting, and others.

Plans are currently underway to confirm venues for additional sports including swimming, track & field, badminton, footgolf, fencing, and others. Discussions continue regarding high-risk sports, such as rugby, wrestling, and judo. A decision on these events should be made shortly.

For more information on all sports in the 2021 Summer Games and links to online registration, go to www.baystategames.org. For questions email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Falmouth Road Race to resume, event set for Aug. 15

FALMOUTH – Falmouth Road Race, Inc., organizers of the 49th Annual ASICS Falmouth Road Race, one of America's premier running events of the summer season, today announced that it will host a field of 8,000 in-person runners for its upcoming event on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Those who registered during the initial registration window and selected, "If given the chance, I would like to run in Falmouth" will be guaranteed a place within the limited in-person field. Runners who have not yet registered but are looking to secure a guaranteed in-person spot in this year's event can do so by registering to run on behalf of a charity. A comprehensive list of 164 charitable organizations is available by visiting www.falmouthroadrace.com/charity-program. For more information on general registration, please visit www.falmouthroadrace.com.

"On the heels of Governor Charlie Baker's announcement lifting all coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts effective May 29, and after close consultation with the Town of Falmouth, public safety officials, our medical team, and our partners, we are excited to announce

a field of 8,000 in-person runners for the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race," said Scott Ghelfi, president of the Falmouth Road Race, Inc. Board of Directors. "We are excited to welcome athletes back to Falmouth for this summer tradition and we look forward to welcoming a full field for our 50th running next August."

Aside from the newly announced in-person portion, the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race will still feature a virtual SBLI Kids At-Home Challenge and the race's At-Home Edition, where participants will lace up their running shoes and go seven miles in their own neighborhoods between Aug. 7 to 14.

For nearly 50 years, Falmouth Road Race, Inc. has promoted health, wellness and pride in the community. In these unprecedented and uncertain times, the organization is striving to be consistent in its mission, continuing to provide its dedicated athletes, enthusiasts, and the community with an event to be proud of and one that supports people in need.

For more information, or to register, visit www.falmouthroadrace.com. Follow us on Facebook or at @falmouthroadrace on Instagram.

Western United Pioneers announce 2021 tryouts for all youth teams

LUDLOW – The Western United Pioneers organization has announced the 2021 tryouts. WUP FC is excited to hold 2021-2022 season tryouts. Tryouts are for boys and girls of all age groups (2016 - 2003 birth years).

For players born from 2014 - 2017, we welcome you to come visit our open house to sign up for the Developmental Academy Program (2014-2016) and the First Kick Program (no need to try out

for 2017). This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a white or grey shirt.

Go to www.westernunitedpioneers.sportngin.com to look for registration information and the full tryout schedule.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one play-off game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups will continue to be open as the league still has open roster spots

for new players. Players who sign up in the first few weeks of the season should be able to be placed with a team.

The league's first games are scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

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CATEGORY:	1	2	3	4
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	25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
	29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
	33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
	37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

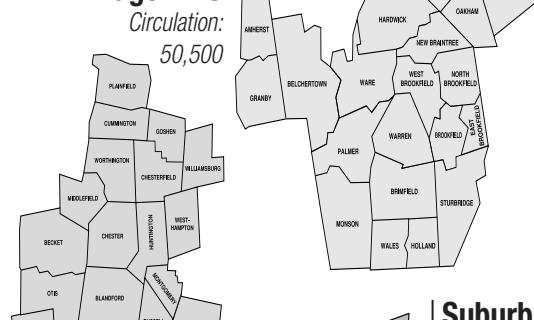
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin

Village Hills

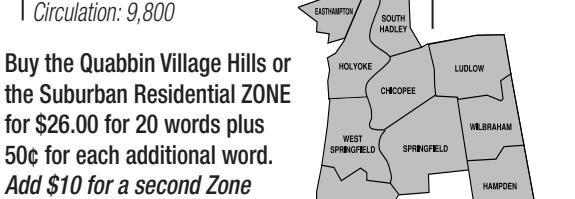
Circulation:

50,500



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ASSESSORS CLERK AND/OR ASSISTANT ASSESSOR The Town of Granby is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Assessors Clerk (AC) and/or Assistant Assessor (AA) for a full-time position (30 hours). Preferred candidates must possess (AC) a high school diploma and one year of office administration and/or record keeping experience; experience in a municipal setting and in dealing with the public strongly preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. (AA) Demonstrates experience and/or schooling required. Certified or certifiable as Mass Accredited Assessor. Knowledge of Mass. Principals of real and personal property values. Must enjoy interacting with the public, real estate agents and other town offices. Job descriptions and applications are available at the Town of Granby Selectboard Office 10-B W State St Granby MA 01033 or by calling 413-467-7177. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary depends on qualifications and experience. Please submit cover letter and resume to: Town of Granby Board of Assessors C/O Board of Selectmen 10-B West State St., MA 01033.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

In The News

FUNDS, from page 1

in terms of what they need to do and when they need to do it, and it will be operated as if the funding is from a Community Development Block Grant having the city go through a similar process to that.

The city will take proposals and have a citizen's advisory councils to review proposals, afterwards the city will take public comment of the proposals, have the City Council review it, lastly it will ultimately go to the mayor's office to be signed off, recommend programs, and get contracts signed. Murphy said the funding is going through this process so they can make a positive impact on what goes on in Holyoke.

While there is a June 21 deadline for proposals, Murphy said the deadline may move as they are unexpectedly a little behind, though Murphy stresses that if someone wants to submit a proposal they need to get acting on it and go through the application process.

Applications can be filled out the GoogleForm they can call the Mayor's

Office at 413-322-5510 or the Office for Community Development at 413-322-5610.

"We are trying to get proposals that are going to have the greatest long term sustainable, transformative impact on the community," Murphy said. "What does that mean? Well a few things number one affordable and better housing, I'd love to see us have a proposal that allows us to improve the health quality in some of our apartment units."

While Murphy hopes for some proposals for better housing options in the city, he and Zoeller mentioned the funding won't go to households who are struggling from the pandemic.

For those concerns, people can call the Community Development office, where there are already programs in place to help. Although the funds do go directly to households, Zoeller mentioned they'd love to hear feedback from homeowners and business about what type of programs they feel they need.

Murphy and Zoeller said they're looking into things discussed at the restaurant listening session, as a way to

help out small local businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic.

"We have been in conversations with, for instance restaurant owners and we've heard them loud and clear, they need significant investments," Zoeller said. "One of the speakers at the restaurant listening session spoke of challenges in getting folks back into the workforce and is there a way to incentivize that. So we reached out to the federal delegation and we did get a response that yes, you can provide incentives for people to come back to work."

Murphy's idea is if someone goes back to work and they're there for 30 days they give a financial incentive and if they're there for 60 days they get another incentive. Zoeller said this issue is one that they heard loud and clear from restaurant owners, and the same can be true from other local businesses.

For more information on the ARPA application and proposal process, as well as what the funds can be used for, residents can contact the Mayor's Office, the Community Development Office, or the town website at <https://www.holyoke.org>.



Director of Community Development Alicia M. Zoeller and Acting Mayor Terence Murphy speak about the possible programs these funds can go toward at the conference.

Photos by Shelby Macri

CITY HALL, from page 1

track of the attendance of the public at Board Meetings (should the Department choose to invite the public in, specifically Name, Address, Phone Number)

• Remote and Hybrid Board/Council meetings can continue until the State's Open Meeting Law Exemption is rescinded. We are awaiting information from the State regarding when the Open Meeting Law exemption will be rescinded and if any lasting changes will be made.

• City Council meetings will not resume in-person attendance by the public at this time.

"As we prepare to re-open city services to the public, please know that we are doing all that we can to

provide those services with public health and safety in mind. In line with that thought, we will still mandate masks be worn in city buildings for all visitors, and that staff also wear them whenever near other employees," said Acting Mayor Terence Murphy. "We are thrilled to re-open City Hall and welcome back residents and community members. I want to thank them for their cooperation and understanding. We are slowly starting to get back to normal."

Buildings have been closed to the public for more than one year with some exception that were made and by appointment only.

There is no timeline for the city to resume in-person attendance at public board meetings. Some other communities are aiming to allow people to attend meetings starting in July.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

WAGE, from page 1

Murphy said that Springfield and Easthampton have recently passed similar ordinances, trying to support laborers through passage of these laws.

While cities and towns and their taxpayers love to see projects come in "under budget" due to low bids, Murphy says contractors need to follow the rules and regulations in order to do business in the City of Holyoke.

Another testimonial came from Charles Payne.

He said race comes into play with a lot of wage left, and Holyoke is a prime target with a large Hispanic population. He said one wage theft case against a contractor resulted in nearly a half-million dollars in restitution to workers, and two of the projects the contractor did were in Holyoke.

The Ordinance Committee puts its support behind the proposal from

Murphy, with Committee Chair and Mayoral Candidate Rebecca Lisi in full support.

"We learned that more dollars are lost to wage theft than any other crime and it affects those people who can least afford it-- usually laborers who typically have the least ability or resources for recourse," Lisi said. "The Attorney General's office supports localities taking action to incentivize compliance."

The order now moves to the full council at a future meeting. The order would:

- prevent misclassification of employees as independent contractors;
- assure that employees are paying all payroll taxes and workers compensation premiums;
- comply with state laws governing the payment of prevailing wages;
- assure that contractors provide opportunities for Holyoke residents, veterans, people of color and women.

Final Applause Series performance features GOZA

AGAWAM — The Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series — presented virtually for the entire seventeenth season due to the coronavirus pandemic, will conclude on June 4 with a program of exciting Latin music and dance rhythms by GOZA (Spanish for joy). The concert, originally recorded on April 5, 2019, will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick's TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch Channel 15" button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

GOZA is an engaging Latin/Latin Jazz musical ensemble comprised of Connecticut's most seasoned and versatile musicians who perform exciting music and dance rhythms from Latin America, Brazil and Spain with guitar, violin, horns, Latin percussion and beautiful, romantic vocals. GOZA rhythms include: samba, rumba, cha-cha, salsa, cumbia, flamenco, tango, and bolero, and numbers by Jobim, Tito Puente, Gipsy Kings, Buena Vista, Rollins and Dizzy, as well as original compositions. GOZA is made up of: Dave Giardina, guitarist and director; Karina Hernandez, violin/vocals; Brian Wallace, trumpet/flugelhorn; and Asher Delerme, percussion. Giardina has studied jazz, classical and flamenco guitar in the United States and Spain with masters such as Sal Salvador, Paco Pena, Manuel Barrueco, Sharon Isbin and Joe Beck. Hernandez is a native of Mexico City, where, at age



The finale of the seventeenth season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series will be a performance of the Latin Jazz Ensemble GOZA, to be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam's and Southwick's public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. on June 4. Clockwise from top left: Karina Hernandez (violins/vocals); Asher Delerme (percussion); Brian Wallace (trumpet/flugelhorn); and Dave Giardina (guitarist/director)

Submitted photo

eight, she began violin studies and voice and music theory lessons at the prestigious Escuela Nacional de Música de la UNAM. Currently a music teacher in Tampa, Florida, she comes north often to

play with Goza. Wallace was a member Massachusetts Northeast District Jazz Band under the direction of Jazz legend Hugh Pomeroy and has performed at the Montreal Jazz Fest. Delerme is

one of Connecticut's most versatile and accomplished percussionists, and has performed with jazz luminaries Hilton Ruiz, Paquito De Rivera, Dr. Billy Taylor, Jay Hoggard, Foday Musa Suso, Marion Meadows as well as the great Pete Seeger.

Production sponsors for GOZA are the Grandfield Family and People's United Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during this time of social distancing, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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- Recibir la vacuna no afectará su condición migratoria.
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